

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198750

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV, SF, WA, VE

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT PEREZ: SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE TALKING POINTS CONCERNING SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH YOU MIGHT WISH TO DRAW UPON IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ.

2. RHODESIA:

WE ARE CURRENTLY PURSUING WITH THE UK A PROPOSAL INCORPORATING THREE MAIN FEATURES: (1) A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WHICH GUARANTEES DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS BASED ON ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE; A JUSTIFIABLE BILL OF RIGHTS; AND GUARANTEES OF PENSION AND PROPERTY RIGHTS. (2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TRANSITIONAL CARETAKER GOVERNMENT UNDER A BRITISH-APPOINTED RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
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WHO WOULD BE ASSISTED BY A UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND AN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE. (3) A ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND DESIGNED TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY. THE FUND WOULD BE FINANCED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER NATIONS AND WOULD TOTAL 1 TO 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS.

3. AS MEANS TO SECURE AGREEMENT TO THE PROPOSAL WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF THE FIVE "FRONT LINE" STATES; TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA IN ENCOURAGING THE NATIONALISTS TO VIEW OUR PROPOSAL SYMPATHETICALLY. WE ARE MAKING EFFORTS TO ENLIST THE COOPERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN USING ITS INFLUENCE TO BRING ABOUT SMITH'S ACCEPTANCE. SECRETARIES VANCE AND OWEN MET WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA IN LONDON ON AUGUST 12 AND URGED SAG COOPERATION. WE ARE PREPARED TO USE ADDITIONAL MEASURES OF PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA TO SECURE ITS COOPERATION SHOULD IT NOT BE FORTHCOMING.

4. DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA WAS PRESENTED THE OUTLINES OF OUR SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS BY PRESIDENT CARTER. NYERERE UNDERTOOK TO CALL A MEETING OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AT WHICH UK FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG COULD EXPLAIN THE PLAN IN DETAIL. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD SOON IN ONE OF THE FRONT LINE CAPITALS. OWEN AND YOUNG WILL ALSO MEET WITH THE RHODESIAN NATIONALIST LEADERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SMITH REGIME AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS. ONCE THE PROPOSALS ARE PRESENTED TO THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES IT IS OUR INTENTION TO MAKE THEM PUBLIC VIA THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL.

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5. WE EXPECT THE UN TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING SOME FORM OF UN PRESENCE IN RHODESIA DURING THE IMPORTANT TRANSITIONAL PERIOD DURING WHICH THE BRITISH WILL RESUME THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE AND PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS. WE ARE OF COURSE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF VENEZUELA, A SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER, IN OUR EFFORTS AND WILL BE BRIEFING THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IN GREATER DEPTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. NAMIBIA: WE CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE UK, FRANCE, GERMANY AND CANADA IN A FIVE POWER CONTACT GROUP WHICH HAS AS ITS GOAL A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM. WE SEEK A SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORY AND UN SUPERVISED AND CONTROLLED ELECTIONS TO CHOOSE AN ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIANS WHICH WILL DRAFT AN INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE MADE SOME NOTABLE CONCESSIONS IN RECENT MONTHS ON NAMIBIA. WE WILL TRY TO ENCOURAGE MORE.

7. IN MEETINGS HELD AUGUST 8 THRU 11 IN NEW YORK, SAM NUJOMA, PRESIDENT OF SWAPO (THE SOUTH WEST AFRICAN

PEOPLES ORGANIZATION) DISCUSSED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S., U.K., FRG, FRANCE, AND CANADA, THE ISSUES SURROUNDING A TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCH MEETING AND RESULTED IN A MODEST BUT HOPEFUL JOINT COMMUNIQUE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT POSSIBILITIES OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CONTINUE TO EXIST. THOUGH SHARP DIFFERENCES REMAIN, THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH SWAPO HAS DISCUSSED DETAILED POSSIBILITIES OF COMPROMISE. OUR NEXT STEP WILL BE TO BRIEF THE "FRONT LINE" STATES, PRETORIA, AND THE UN SECRETARIAT ON THE MEETING.

8. SOUTH AFRICA. SINCE VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MEETING WITH MR. VORSTER THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING MOOD
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OF FRUSTRATION ON THE PART OF SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES. THERE IS A REALIZATION THAT INCREASING PRESSURE WILL BE APPLIED FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN PRESENT INTERNAL POLICY. THE FOLLOWING ARE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) IN THE SOWETO AREA A COMMITTEE UNITING DIFFERENT TRIBES HAS DEMANDED LOCAL AUTONOMY FOR SOWETO. THESE HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

(B) MEMBERS OF VORSTER'S CABINET HAVE PUBLICLY QUESTIONED SOME ASPECTS OF APARTHEID SUCH AS THE PROHIBITION OF MIXED MARRIAGES.

(C) A CABINET COMMITTEE IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD ALLOW A LIMITED SHARE OF POWER FOR INDIANS AND COLOREDS, BUT THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT INCLUDE THE BLACKS.

9. ALTHOUGH THERE IS OBVIOUSLY FERMENT WE HAVE SEEN NO IDENTIFIABLE SIGNS OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE. VANCE

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